

# Protecting the Public Purse Fraud Briefing 2013 West Lancashire Borough Council



# Agenda

- Introduction and purpose of your Fraud Briefing
- *Protecting the Public Purse (PPP) 2013* report – national picture
- Interpreting fraud detection results
- The local picture
- Questions?

*And do not forget*

- Checklist for those charged with governance (Appendix 2 of PPP 2013)*
- Questions councillors may want to ask/consider (Appendix 3 of PPP 2013)*

# Introduction

- Fraud costs local government in England over £2 billion per year (*source: National Fraud Authority*)
- Fraud is never a victimless crime
- Councillors have an important role in the fight against fraud

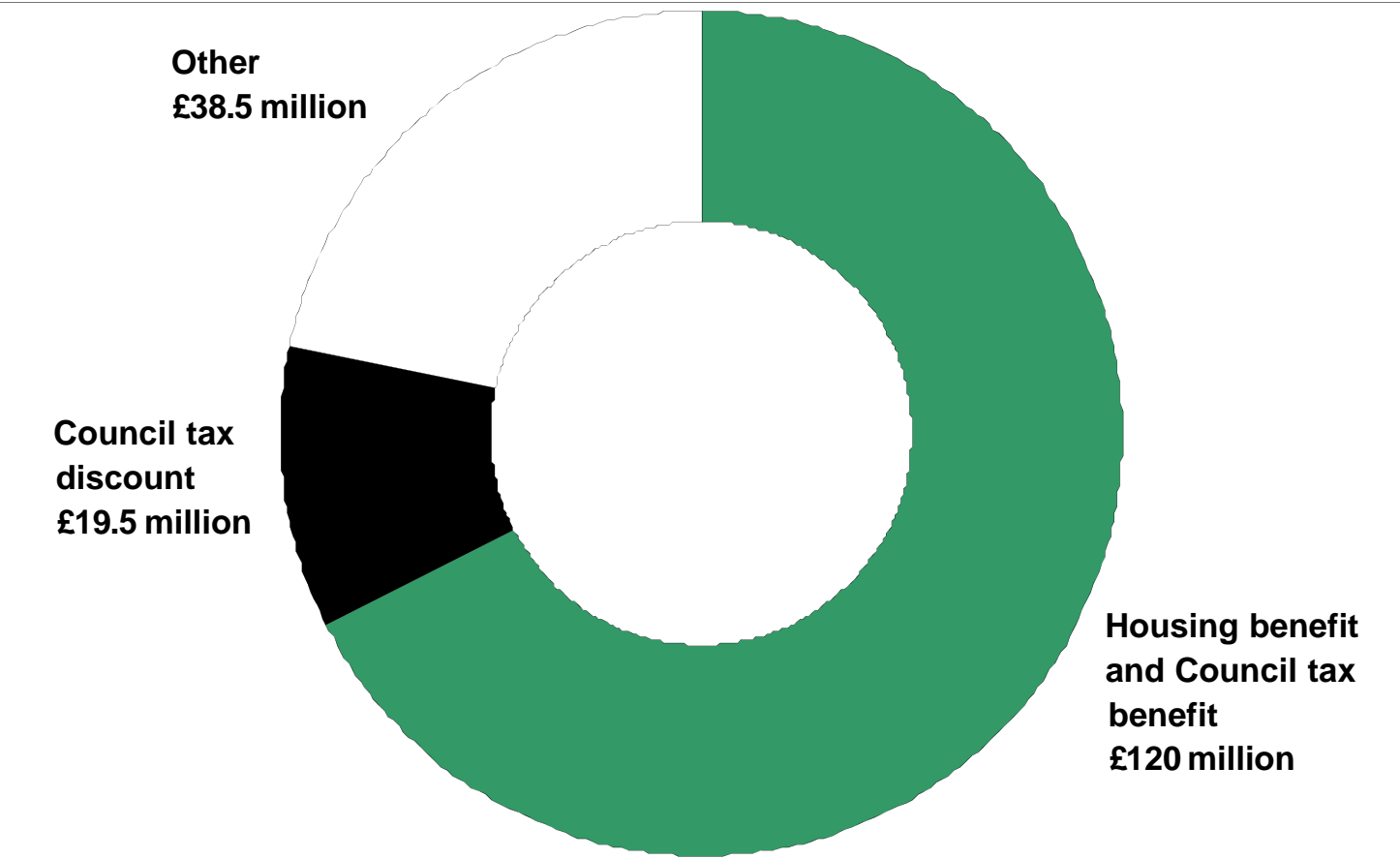


# Purpose of Fraud Briefing at your council

- Opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities
- Reviews current counter fraud strategy and priorities
- Discuss local and national fraud risks
- Reflect local priorities in a proportionate response to those risks

# National Picture 2012/13

Total cases detected 107,000, with a value of £178 million (excluding social housing fraud)



*Nationally, the number of detected frauds has fallen by 14% since 2011/12 and the value by less than 1%*

# Interpreting fraud detection results

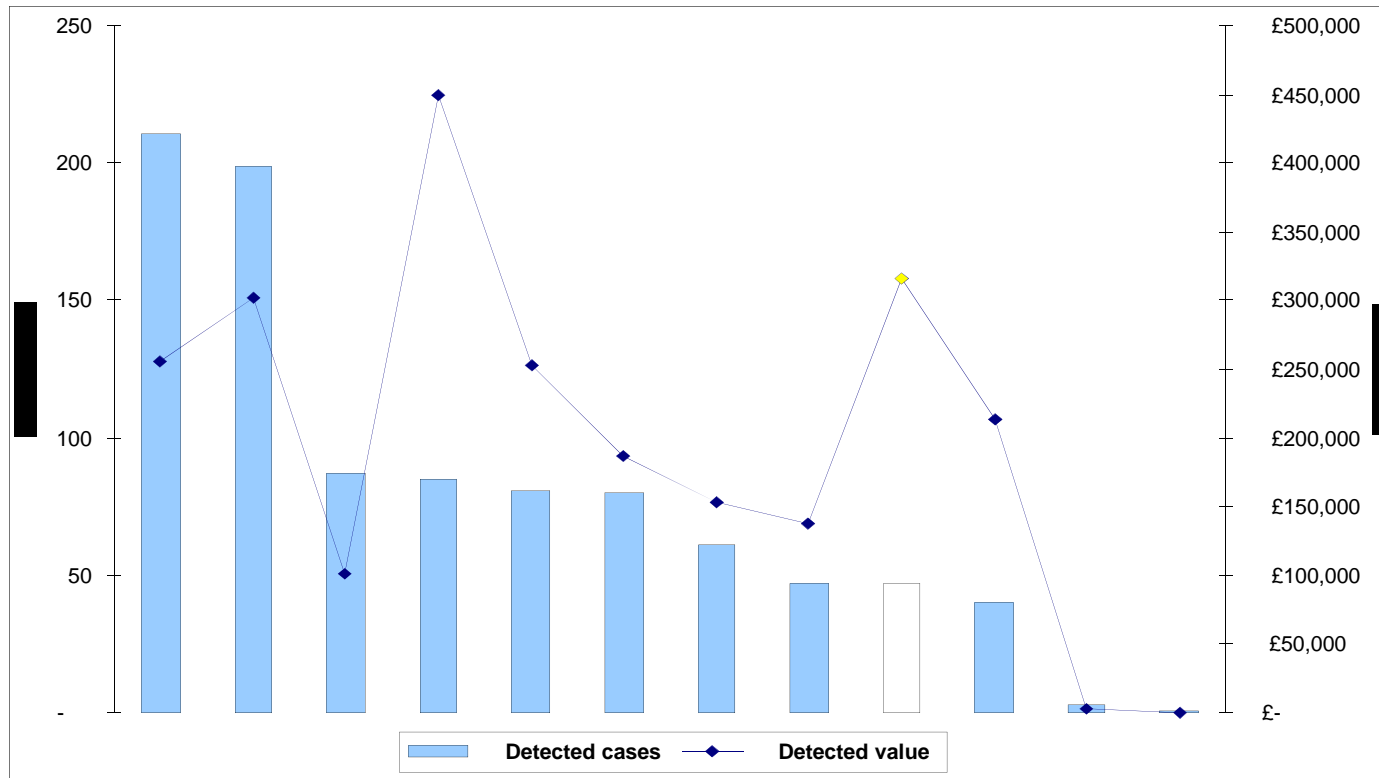
- Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results
- Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked)
- No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed)
- Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud (There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early)

*Your council is highlighted in white in the graphs that follow*

# The local picture

## How your council compares to other district councils in your county area

### Total detected cases and value 2012/13



West Lancashire detected: 47 cases, valued at £316,604\*

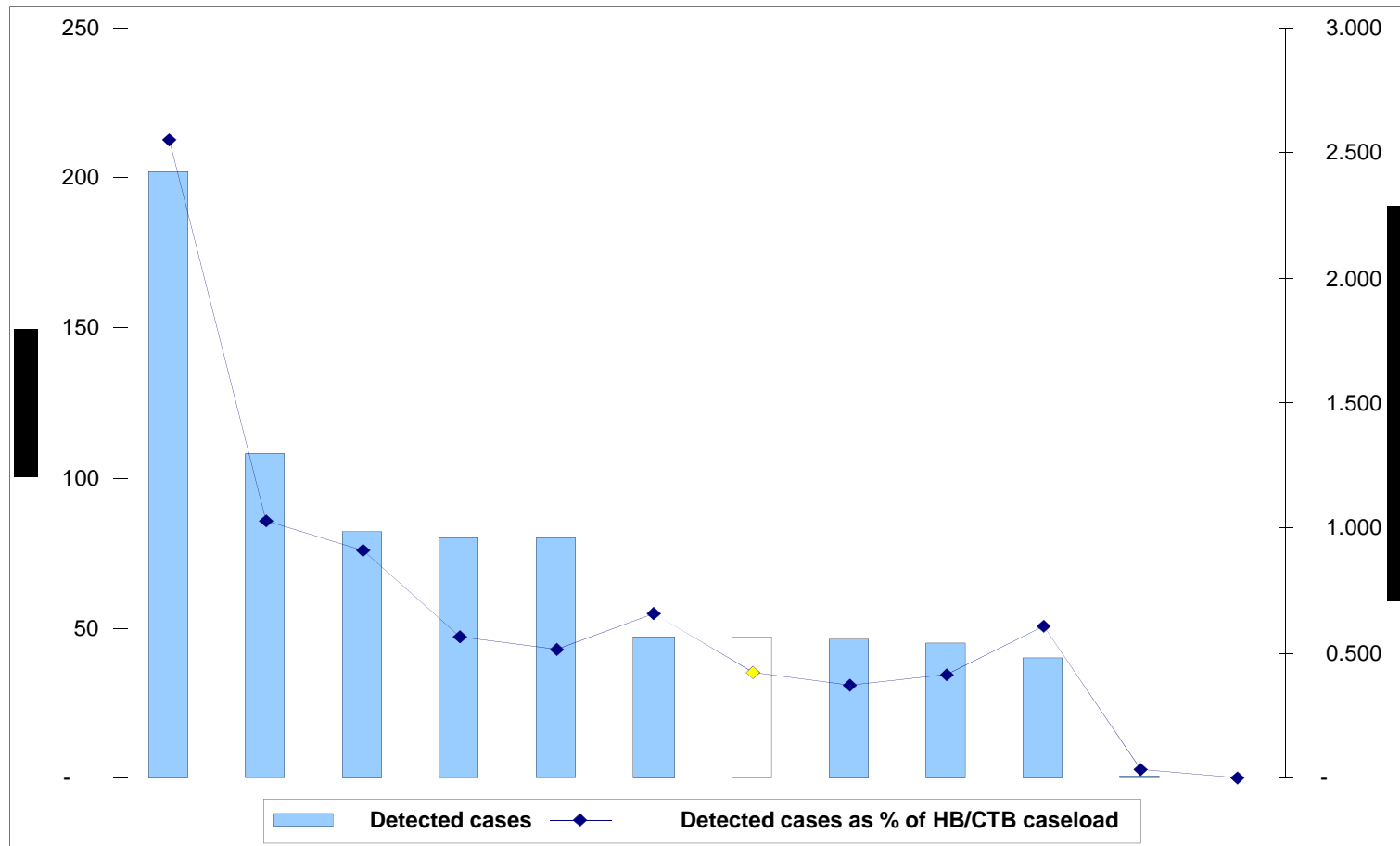
DC average for your county area: 79 cases, valued at £197,668

\* WLBC reported only HB and CTB frauds, see following slides .

# District councils in your county area 2012/13

## Housing benefit (HB) and Council tax benefit (CTB) fraud

### Detected cases and detected cases as a percentage of HB/CTB caseload



West Lancashire detected: 47 cases, valued at £316,604

DC average for your county area: 65 cases, valued at £165,402

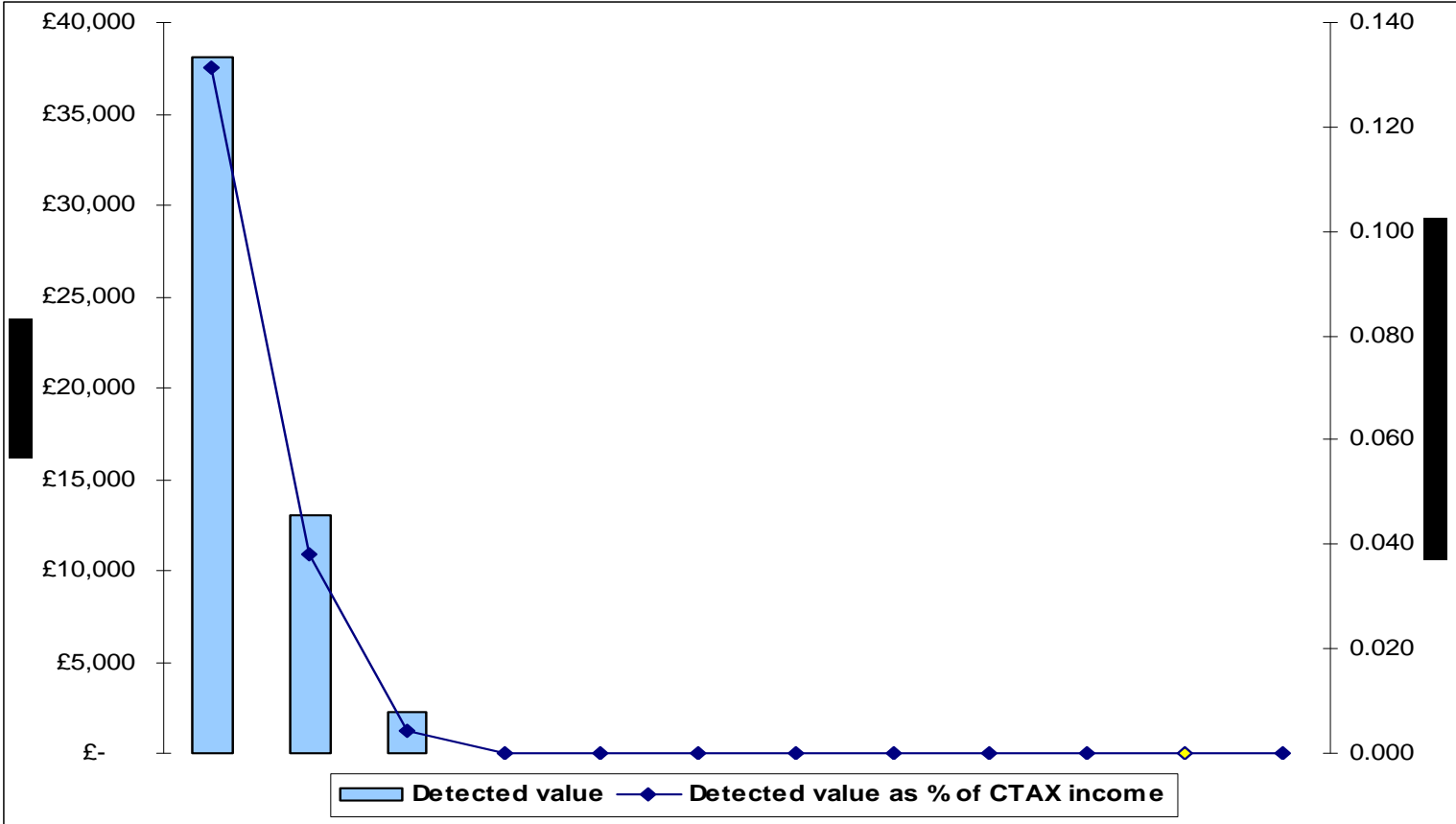




# District councils in your county area 2012/13

## Council tax (CTAX) discount fraud

### Detected value and detected value as a percentage of council tax income



West Lancashire detected: no cases

DC average for your county area: 10 cases, valued at £4,439



# North West region - district councils with housing stock 2012/13

## Social housing fraud

### Properties recovered and properties recovered as a percentage of housing stock



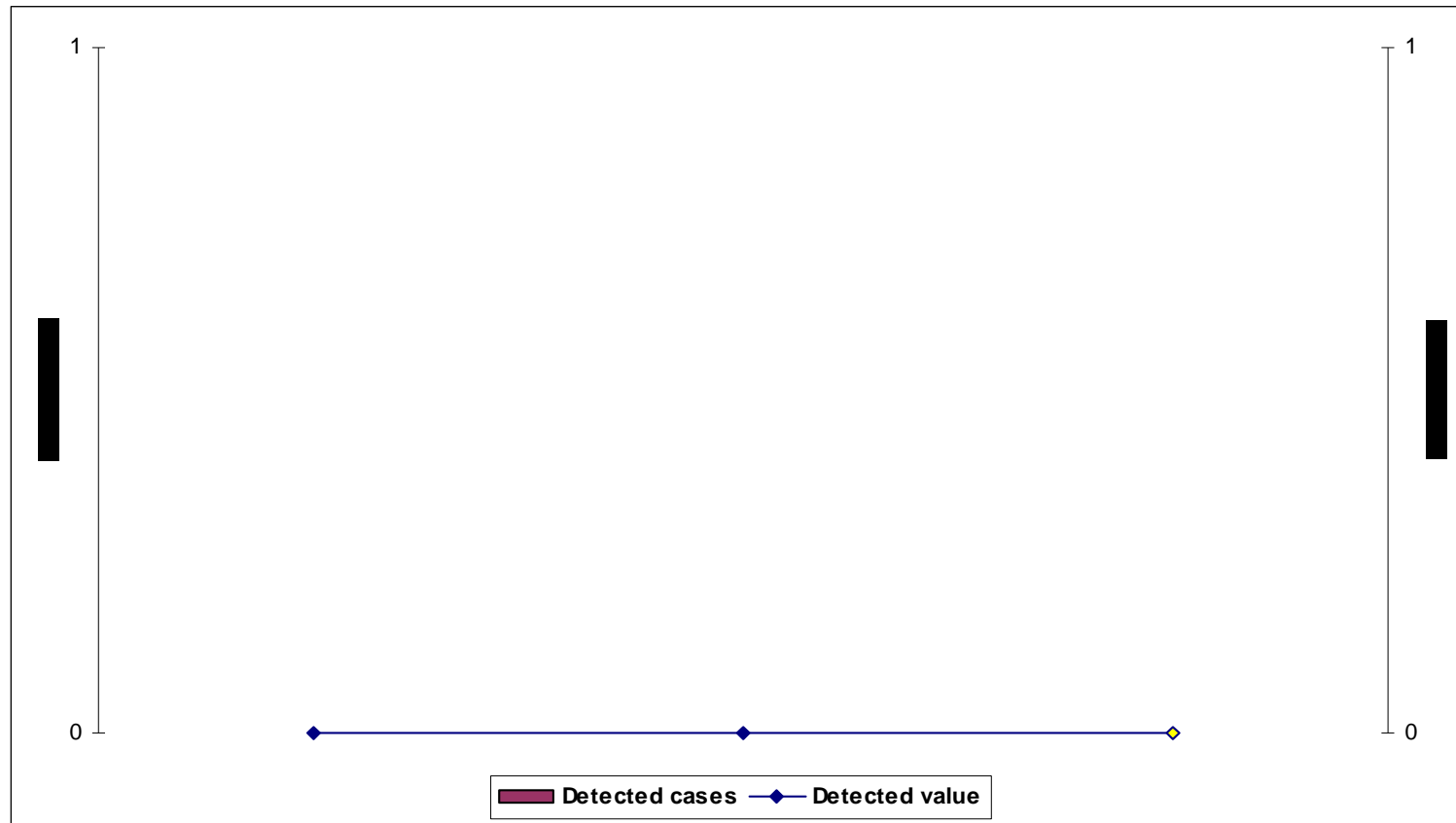
West Lancashire recovered: no properties

North West regional average: no properties

# North West region - district councils with housing stock 2012/13

## Right to buy fraud

### Detected cases and detected value



West Lancashire detected: no cases

North West region total detected: no cases

# West Lancashire Borough Council

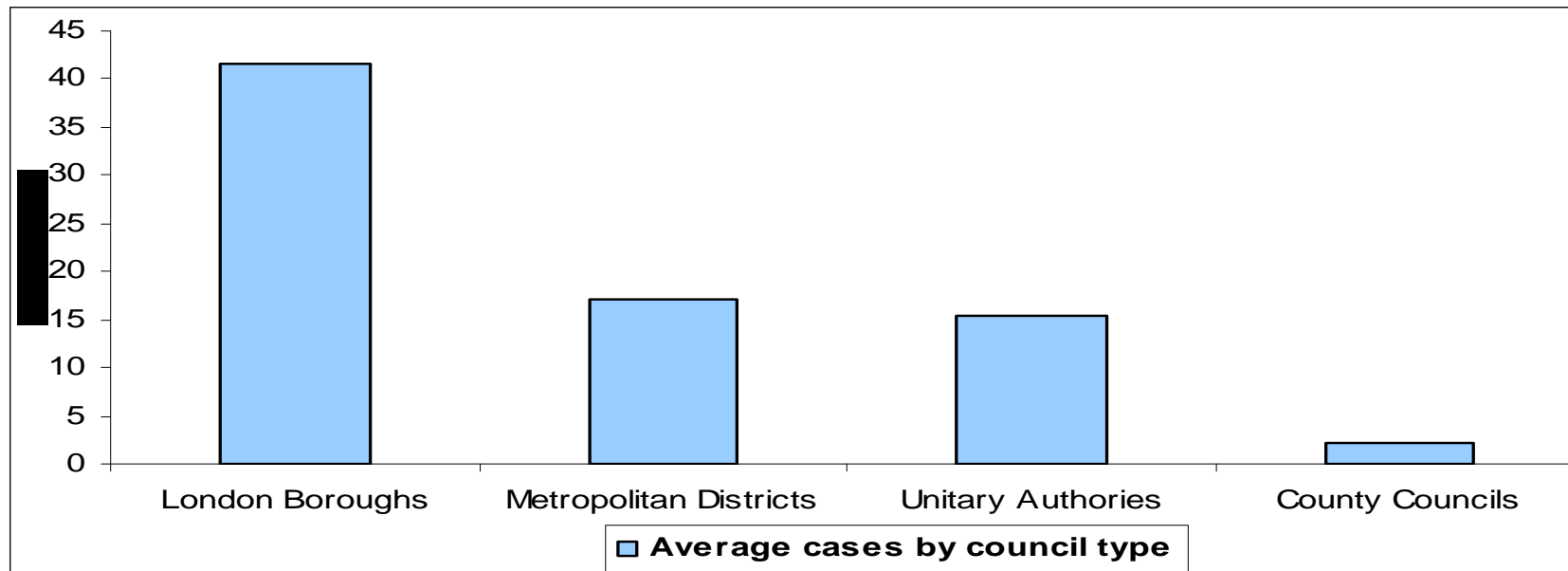
## Other frauds

- **Procurement:** no cases  
*(Ave per DC in your county area: no cases  
Total for all local government bodies in your region: 20 cases, valued at £411,783)*
- **Insurance:** no cases  
*(Ave per DC in your county area: <1 case, no value recorded  
Total for all local government bodies in your region: 6 cases, valued at £276,008)*
- **Economic & Third sector:** no cases  
*(Ave per DC in your county area: no cases  
Total for all local government bodies in your region: 11 cases, valued at £18,400)*
- **Internal fraud:** no cases  
*(Ave per DC in your county area: 1 case, valued at £3,428  
Total for all local government bodies in your region: 168 cases, valued at £1,522,016)*

Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk

*It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case*

## Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud Detected cases by issuing council type



In two-tier areas:

- county councils have administrative responsibility for issuing blue badges
- district councils face reduced car parking income as a result of the fraudulent abuse of blue badges.

# Any questions?

